

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 908  
By Shepard

A RESOLUTION to honor Oscar Palmer Robertson as a Distinguished Son of Dickson County who has been chosen to unveil the Bicentennial Monument on March 20, 2004.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the General Assembly should pause it its deliberations to join citizens of the cities and counties that comprise this great State in celebrating joyous and historic occasions; and

WHEREAS, on March 20, 2004, the 200th anniversary of the first meeting of the Justices of the Peace responsible for organizing the county, a Bicentennial Monument will be unveiled on the courthouse lawn in Charlotte by four Distinguished Sons of Dickson County: Oscar P. Robertson of Charlotte, who will represent athletics, Anson A. Mount, IV, of White Bluff, who will represent the arts, Robert N. Clement of Dickson, who will represent public service, and Thomas W. Beasley of Burns, who will represent business and who, along with Mr. Clement, will serve as a representative for all veterans; and

WHEREAS, Oscar Palmer Robertson, known far and wide as "The Big O", is generally regarded as the greatest all-around player in basketball history and has a life story which stands as an example of personal triumph and the fulfillment of an American dream; his accomplishments on the court are legendary, and his humanitarian efforts and compassion away from the court are an example few can match; and

WHEREAS, the grandson of emancipated slaves and the third son of Bailey and Mazell Bell Robertson, Sr., Oscar Robertson was born in 1938 in the Bellsburg community of Charlotte. After moving with his family to Indianapolis in 1942, he returned to Dickson County in the summers of his youth to tend the fields and gardens on his grandparents' land; and

WHEREAS, the penultimate basketball player, Mr. Robertson led Crispus Attucks High School to a forty-five game winning streak, two consecutive Indiana State Championships, and



a national title, and his University of Cincinnati team went to the Final Four twice during his time on the team. He became the first player to lead the National Collegiate Athletics Association in scoring for three straight years, to win National College Player of the Year honors three times, and to be named First Team All-American three times; his impact on the world of college basketball was so impressive that in 1998 the United States Basketball Writers renamed their annual Player of the Year Award the "Oscar Robertson Trophy"; and

WHEREAS, Oscar Robertson won gold medals in the 1959 Pan-American Games and in the 1960 Olympic Games, where he served as a co-captain of a juggernaut United States team which sailed to an undefeated victory; and

WHEREAS, during his 14-year-long career in the National Basketball Association, he played for the Cincinnati Royals and the Milwaukee Bucks, made ten playoff appearances, guided the Bucks to victory in the 1971 NBA Championship, and became the only player in history to average double figure statistics in scoring, rebounding, and assists over the course of an entire season. He amassed spectacular statistics throughout his professional career, tallying 26,710 points, an average of 25.7 points per game, and 9,887 assists over fourteen years; he is ranked seventh on the list of all-time scorers and his assist total set a record that was to remain unbroken for seventeen years; and

WHEREAS, as President of the NBA Players Association from 1965-1974, Mr. Robertson reshaped the game of professional basketball; what was to become known as the "Oscar Robertson Rule" paved the way for free agency and lucrative player salaries. He also served as the first President of the Retired NBA Players Association; and

WHEREAS, Oscar Robertson is currently a member of the National Basketball Association Hall of Fame, the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame, the Wisconsin Basketball Hall of Fame, and the Olympic Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, following his illustrious sports career, Mr. Robertson earned distinction in the business world; he is the owner of Orchem, Inc.; President of Orpack-Stone Corporation; President of Orflex, Ltd.; owner of Oscar Robertson and Associates, Oscar Robertson Document Management Services, and Oscar Robertson Media Ventures; he sits on the Boards of Directors of Countrywide Credit Industries, Inc., the Touchstone Family of Funds, the NBA

Legends Foundation, the NBA Hall of Fame, the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame, the Retired NBA Players Association; and he is a Trustee for Wilberforce University; and

WHEREAS, he has published an autobiography entitled, *The Big O: My Life, My Times, My Game* and a guide to developing fundamental basketball skills entitled, *The Art of Basketball*; and

WHEREAS, having donated a kidney to save his daughter's life in 1997, Oscar Robertson is an advocate for organ donation; he is an Honorary Spokesman for the National Kidney Foundation and started the Oscar Robertson Transplantation Fund in association with the UC Foundation to benefit transplantation education and research at the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine. He has taught and mentored hundreds of children, and in 1999 was named as one of six "Fathers of the Year"; and

WHEREAS, of all his successes, he is most grateful for the love of his wife, Yvonne Crittenden Robertson, and his daughters, Shana, Tia, and Mari; and

WHEREAS, though a business and cultural leader in the Cincinnati area, Oscar Robertson strives to maintain his ties to Dickson County and his family's Tennessee heritage, which stretches back into history for more than 200 years; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate for the members of this Body to honor Dickson County and its upstanding citizenry as they commemorate this significant milestone in their historic existence; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and applaud Oscar Palmer Robertson, Distinguished Son of Dickson County, upon his being chosen to unveil the Bicentennial Monument on March 20, 2004 and extend to him and to all the citizens of Dickson County our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.